



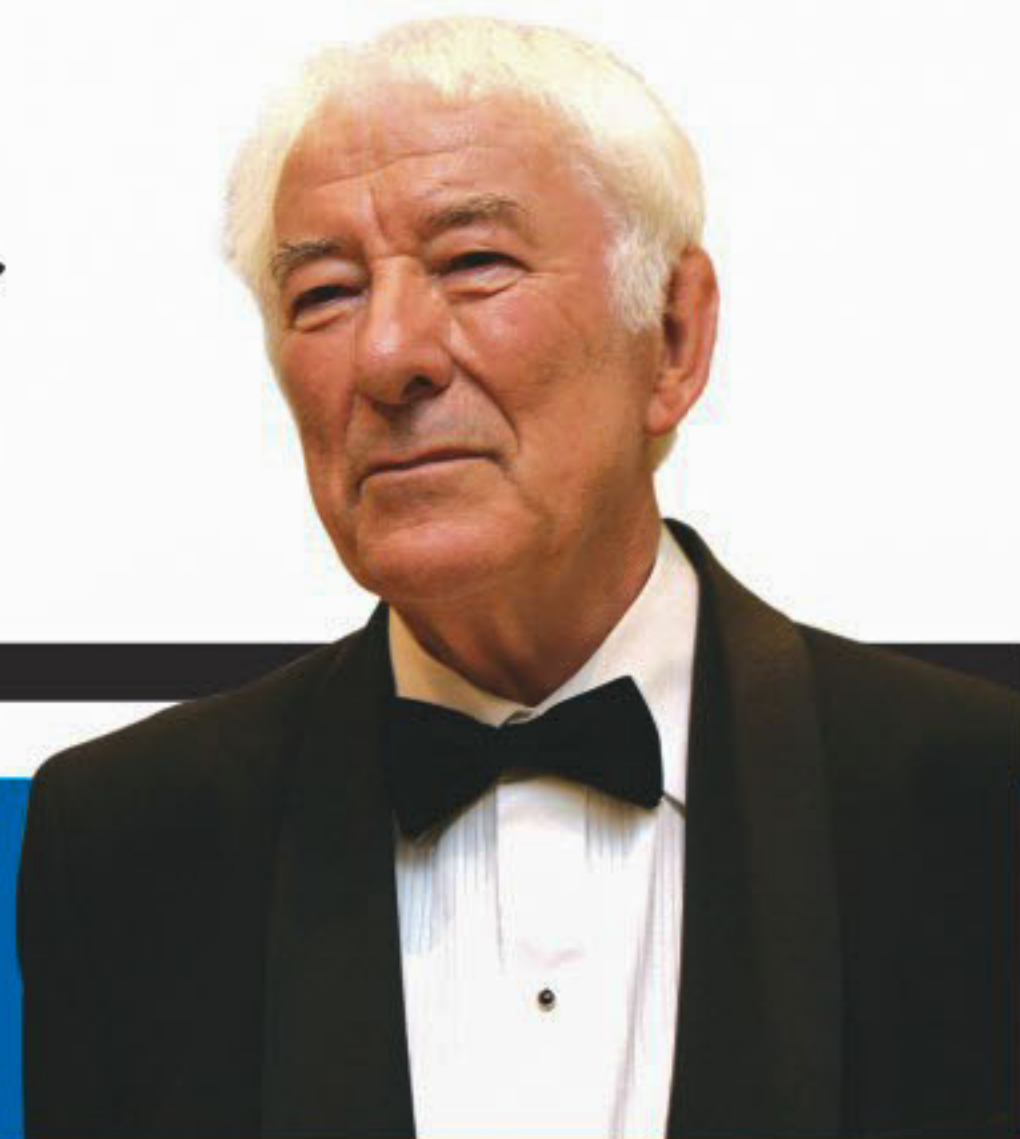
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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star
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THOSE BRAVE WOMEN

Show depicts the life sketches
of 1971 war heroines

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SEAMUS HEANEY NO MORE

The most important Irish poet
since WB Yeats dies aged 74

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Defence purchase govt's priority

*Military hardware worth Tk 15,104cr procured
in five years, more in pipeline; focus on
modernising armed forces*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led grand alliance government has so far procured military hardware worth Tk 15,104 crore as part of its initiative to modernise the armed forces and enhance defence capabilities.

Procurement of another Tk 10,000 crore military hardware and technology is in the pipeline under two deals -- one signed with Russia in January and the other with Belarus last month, said sources in the army.

Moreover, a move to buy two off-the-shelf submarines for the navy is on. A letter of intent has already been issued in this regard. The two submarines might be

bought either from the US or China under a government to government agreement.

Those already procured include radars, tanks, various types of aircraft, helicopters, missiles, frigates, survey ships and self-propelled guns. These were procured from China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Serbia and the UK.

Statistics of defence purchase from fiscal year 2008-09 to 2012-13 show highest Tk 5,407.27 crore was spent for the army followed by Tk 4,975.49 crore for the navy. Air force purchase stood at Tk 4,722.13 crore.

China remains Bangladesh's largest supplier, accounting for more than half the

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Mawa terminal sees a huge surge in ferry passengers yesterday as launch operations from Mawa to Kaorakandi, Majhirkandi and Bhanga remain suspended for several days following a face-off between two groups of vessel owners. *Inset*, vessels moored at Chanderbari, Munshiganj.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Re-elect AL to keep terrorism at bay

*Hasina urges people at Dhaka rally, says
BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat to turn Bangladesh
into a safe haven for militants*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to re-elect the Awami League for a Bangladesh free of terrorism, poverty and hunger.

She said the BNP, Jamaat and Hefajat-e-Islam, if voted to power, would turn the country into a haven for militants and corruptionists.

"Killing people and patronising terrorism is their [BNP-Jamaat's] character," said Hasina, also the ruling AL president, while addressing a mammoth rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

"I seek your votes for the continuation of the development activities of this government," she said, adding that she was

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

US makes case for Syria strike

*Releases chemical data, holds
regime responsible, vows 'tailored'
response despite major setbacks*

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday released intelligence to show why it is certain that Syrian forces have killed civilians with chemical weapons and said Washington has a historic duty to act.

As a time window for expected US air strikes beckoned, the White House produced a declassified intelligence report which said 1,429 people including 426 children were killed in the August 21 outrage outside Damascus.

Secretary of State John Kerry meanwhile made an impassioned case for a "tailored" US response, despite the lack of

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ON PURCHASE LIST

Radars, tanks,
various aircraft,
helicopters,
missiles,
frigates,
survey ship,
self-propelled guns

MAJOR SOURCES

China,
Russia,
UK,
Japan,
Italy,
Serbia,
France,
Germany

Arms procured between 2009-13:

Army gets Tk 5,407 crore worth arms
Navy gets Tk 4,975 crore. Air Force gets Tk 4,722 crore
Biggest supplier- **China**

Procurement in pipeline:
Tk 10,000 crore

Move to purchase **two submarines**
worth \$0.5 to 1 billion



HONG KONG



SINGAPORE



THAILAND



BANGLADESH

New home of Citi Bangladesh.

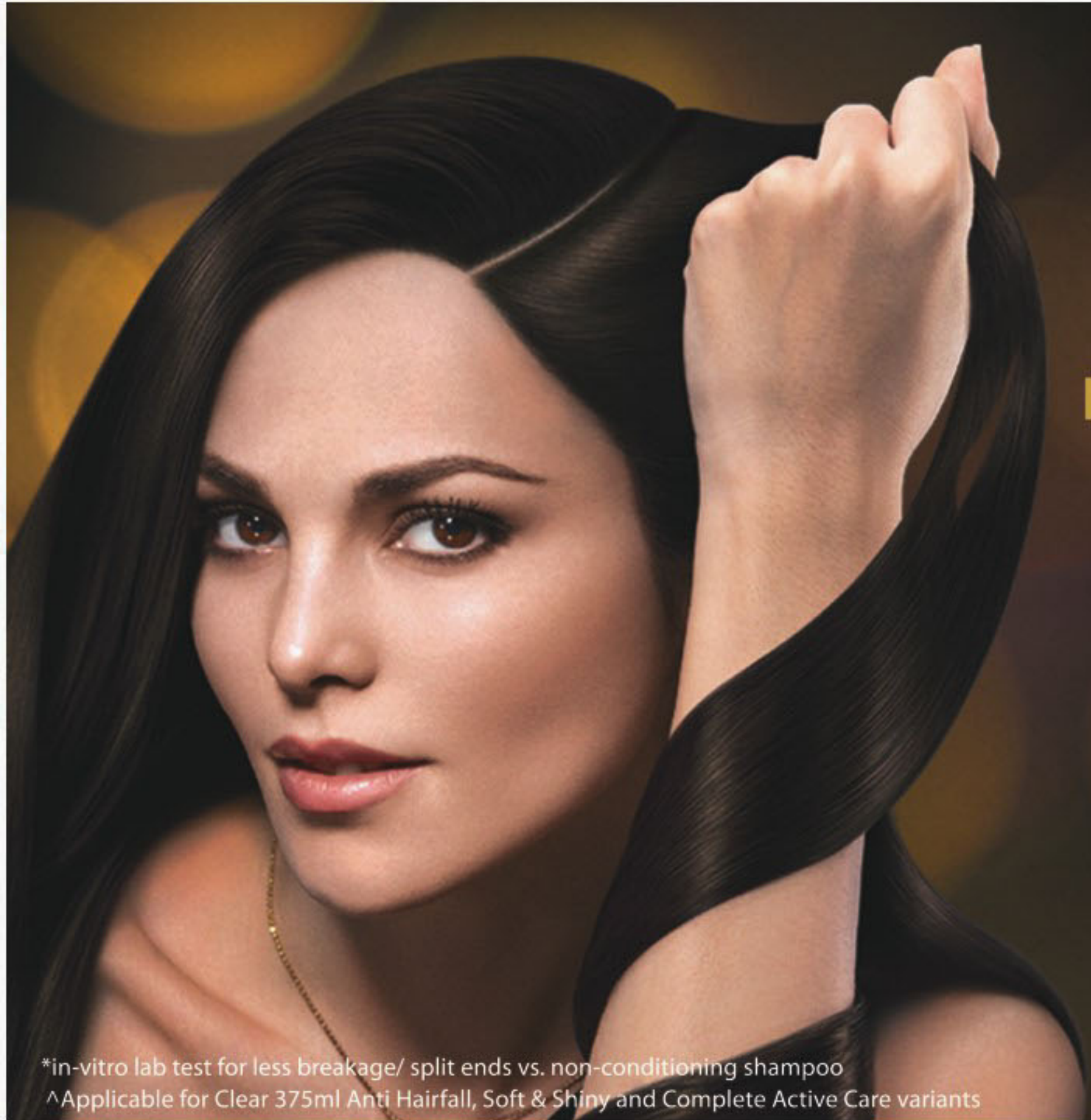
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